

03050205-010

(*Edisto River*)

General Description

Watershed 03050205-010 is located in Bamberg, Orangeburg, Dorchester, and Colleton Counties and consists primarily of the ***Edisto River*** and its tributaries, from its origin to Cattle Creek. The watershed occupies 80,967 acres of the Lower Coastal Plain region of South Carolina. The predominant soil types consist of an association of the Rains-Lynchburg-Goldsboro-Johnston-Lumbee series. The erodibility of the soil (K) averages 0.20 and the slope of the terrain averages 1%, with a range of 0-2%. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 50.6% forested land, 27.3% forested wetland (swamp), 17.8% agricultural land, 2.7% barren land, 0.7% urban land, 0.5% water, and 0.4% nonforested wetland (marsh).

The headwaters of the Edisto River are formed from the confluence of the North Fork Edisto River and the South Fork Edisto River near the Town of Bamberg. This section of the Edisto River accepts drainage from Betty Branch (Staley Branch, Mill Branch), Broad Branch, Pen Branch, Brier Creek, Bush Branch, and Box Branch. There are a total of 121.5 stream miles and 200.3 acres of lake waters in this watershed, all classified FW.

Surface Water Quality

<u>Station #</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
E-013	P/W	FW	EDISTO RIVER AT U.S. 78, W OF BRANCHVILLE
E-013A	W/INT	FW	EDISTO RIVER AT U.S. 21

Edisto River – There are two SCDHEC monitoring sites along this section of the Edisto River, and recreational uses are fully supported at both sites. This is a blackwater system, characterized by naturally low pH and dissolved oxygen concentrations. Although pH excursions were noted at both sites, they were typical of values seen in such systems and considered natural, not standards violations. At the upstream site (**E-013**), aquatic life uses are fully supported. Significant decreasing trends in five-day biochemical oxygen demand and total nitrogen concentration suggest improving conditions for these parameters. Aquatic life uses are also fully supported at the downstream site (**E-013A**).

A fish consumption advisory has been issued by the Department for mercury and includes portions of streams within this watershed (see advisory p.38).

NPDES Program

Active NPDES Facilities

RECEIVING STREAM

FACILITY NAME

PERMITTED FLOW @ PIPE (MGD)

NPDES#

TYPE

COMMENT

EDISTO RIVER

TOWN OF BRANCHVILLE

PIPE #: 001 FLOW: 0.15

PIPE #: 001 FLOW: 0.40

SC0047333

MINOR DOMESTIC

PHASE I

PHASE II (NOT IMPLEMENTED YET)

Growth Potential

There is a low to moderate potential for growth in this watershed, which contains the Towns of Branchville and Rowesville. The Town of Branchville is located in the center of the watershed with U.S. 78 and a rail line connecting it to the Towns of Bamberg and St. George, and U.S. 21 and another rail line connecting it to the City of Orangeburg. The infrastructure is in place, but census data shows a 37% decline in population over the last decade.